



# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

WEEKLY REPORT  
WEEK ENDING Feb. 2, 2009  
By Jerry Wright



## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan cruised past Iowa by a score of 347.900-321.550 on Friday night (Jan. 30) at Cliff Keen Arena. Event titles by senior Scott Bregman on the FX (14.850), Chris Cameron on PH (15.000) and PB's (14.700), and Thomas Kelley on SR (14.650) and HB (15.000) led the Maize and Blue to victory.



KELLEY

U-M took the lead in the initial rotation and never relinquished it; the squad's 26.35 margin of victory is the largest of the season.

Michigan took a commanding 57.450-50.450 lead over Iowa after the first rotation, with four Wolverines posting scores of 14.00 or better on the FX. Freshman Syque Caesar, Bregman, Jamie Thompson and Kelley earned 14.500, 14.85, 14.10 and 14.00, respectively, to boost the Maize and Blue ahead of Iowa's pommel-horse performances.

Cameron paced Michigan with a 15.000 on the PH, while freshman Devan Cote earned the night's second-highest score (14.400) in his collegiate debut.

Kelley led the Wolverines on the SR, registering 14.650. Iowa edged closer to Michigan after a strong performance on vault (61.050), but the Maize and Blue still commanded the overall lead, 173.100-167.550, after earning a 58.100 on the SR.

U-M moved to the vault, earning a 60.150 on the apparatus. Iowa garnered a score of 51.150 on the rings, leaving Michigan ahead by 14.55 points (233.250-218.700). On the vault, the Wolverines were led by Kelley's 15.250 -- the third-best score of the night -- as well as junior Mel Anton Santander and Thompson, who each registered a 15.000 on the event to tie for fifth place.

Michigan garnered a 57.000 on PB's, and Iowa received a 53.100 on HB during the fifth rotation to give U-M nearly a 20-point lead

(290.250-271.800) over the Hawkeyes. Cameron earned a 14.700 on the apparatus, and Ryan McCarthy had a 14.350 to round out the event's top scores.

The Wolverines further increased their lead over the Hawkeyes after stellar performances on the HB. Led by Kelley's evening-best 15.00, Michigan finished with the top five scores on the event. UM garnered a collective 57.650 on HB.

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota trailed Penn State by nearly a full point heading into the final rotation of Saturday night's dual meet at the Sports Pavilion. But the Gophers came through on the high bar, easily pulling away to take a 345.85-344.50 victory over the Nittany Lions.

"It wasn't the prettiest win, but it was a win," Minnesota head coach Mike Burns said after the meet. "Any time you get a win, you've got to be happy. Penn State is a very solid, highly-ranked team. Our kids did the job. They were good enough to take the win and that's good enough for us."

It was a tight contest through the first four rotations. Heading into the final two events, Minnesota trailed by just .100 (232.100-232.000). The Gophers put up a solid score on the parallel bars in rotation five, while Penn State recorded a good high bar rotation. That left the Nittany Lions with a lead of more than a full point. But Penn State struggled a bit on the parallel bars in the final rotation, while Minnesota started hot on the high bar and rode that hot start to the victory.

"Rings and vault were good and we did a nice job on the p-bars," Burns said. "Then, we put the final nail in the coffin on the high bar -- our high bar against their p-bars. (Penn State) kind of buckled under the pressure we put on them. Our first two guys -- Ali Aleiou and Cole Storer -- just knocked out great routines. They stuck their dismounts and that just

got the crowd so into it and also got our team really charged up. From there, the rest was like 'Let's just finish up and go home with a win.'"

Other leading scorers for the Gophers were: FX: Eddie Campbell (14.85) and Aaron Fortunato (14.80). PH: Kit Beikmann (13.80) and Thomas O'Brien (13.75). SR: Eddie Campbell (14.55) and Thomas O'Brien (14.50). V: Cole Storer (15.80) and Colin McGuire (15.80). PB: Aaron Fortunato (14.30) and Thomas O'Brien (14.05). HB: Cole Storer (14.90) and Ali Aleiou (14.35).

The difference in the meet came on the parallel bars. Minnesota outscored Penn State by nearly two full points (56.650-54.800) on the apparatus.

Penn State took top individual honors in five of the six events. Freshman Russell Dabritz was Minnesota's only event-winner, tying for the parallel bars with a score of 14.35. But the Gophers depth came through for them.

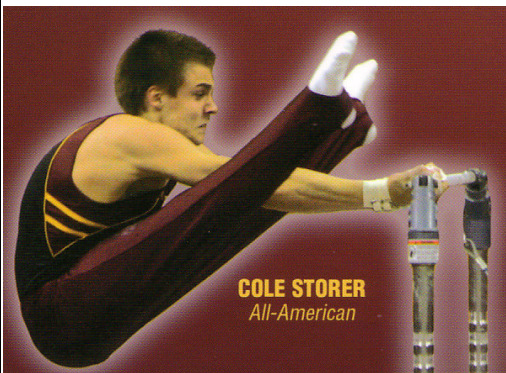
Penn State's Casey Sandy won or tied for first place in five different events (floor exercise, pommel horse, vault, parallel bars and high bar). Sandy easily won the all-around with a score of 89.05. The Nittany Lions' Noam Shaham was second in the all-around (84.85), while DJ Repp scored an 81.90 for Minnesota.

## PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

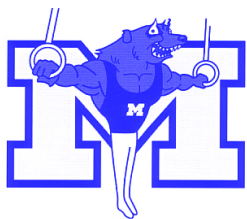
Despite winning at least a share of all six events individually, Penn State suffered its first loss of the season, falling to Minnesota, 345.85-344.50, on Saturday night at the Sports Pavilion in Minneapolis. Season-low scores in the pommel horse (53.65), vault (62.500), and parallel bars (54.80) derailed the Nittany Lions' efforts to gain a road conference victory.

Casey Sandy, however, left no doubt as to whom the best individual competitor was in the arena, winning at least a share of a career-high five events plus the all-around (89.05). The seven-time All-American was dominant, placing first in the floor exercise (15.30), pommel horse (14.65), vault (15.85), parallel bars (tie, 14.35), and high bar (15.00). Sandy, the No. 1-ranked all-arounder in the nation, has won the all-around in each of three meets he has completed the full rotation this season.

Freshman Miguel Pineda continued his impressive start to his collegiate career, claiming his third still rings title of the season with a



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SANDY

score of 14.80. Josh Borremeo saw his first action of the 2009 campaign versus the Gophers, posting a 14.20 in the rings to place fifth. The senior missed the first four weeks of the season while recovering from a biceps injury.

Noam Shaham contributed solid performances, claiming second in the all-around (84.850) while establishing personal season-highs in the vault (15.70) and high bar (14.80). The junior placed third in the high bar for the second consecutive week and was one of just three Nittany Lions to earn top three finishes against Minnesota. In addition to Sandy, Matt Greenfield was the other, finishing second in the floor exercise with score of 14.900.

Two other Nittany Lions had notable performances. Freshman Greg Bruns recorded a season-high score in the pommel horse (13.650), finishing fourth, while redshirt freshman Logan Wyman set a personal best standard in the still rings for the second consecutive week, scoring a 13.850.

Next weekend, a Penn State contingent made-up of freshman Miguel Pineda and volunteer assistant coach Vladi Klurman will travel to Las Vegas, Nev. to compete individually in the prestigious Winter Cup Challenge from Feb. 5-7. Pineda placed 19th in the still rings, scoring a 14.400, while Klurman finished in 17th in the pommel horse with a

13.550 showing at the 2008 event.

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

The University of Iowa fell to the University of Michigan Friday with a final score of 321.55 to 347.90.

Geoff Reins once again captured the first place finish on vault with a 15.65, falling just short of his season best score. Teammate Ben Ketelsen landed in second place with a 15.45 on the event. Freshman Zach Cazabon broke the individual event season record on PH with a final score of 13.60, placing him fifth in the competition.

Team captain Jonathan Buese also broke an event record on the HB with a score of 13.70



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to give him a sixth place finish.

Reins also led the Hawkeyes on FX, with a

third place finish in the event (14.35). Reid Urbain led the team on the SR yet again, finishing with a fifth place finish and a score of 13.50.

The meet was almost certainly a bit of a disappointment to the Hawkeyes as this was their lowest team score of the season, after scoring 325.70 in the Windy City Inv. and 329.55 vs. Ill-Chicago, earlier. IOWA 56.05, 50.45, 51.15, 61.05, 49.75, 53.10= 321.55.